

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 remain in the application, and claims 1-7 have been amended hereby. The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,040,829 (Croy et al.).

Applicants have carefully considered the comments of the Office Action and the cited reference, and respectfully submit that claims 1-8 are patentably distinct over the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

The present invention relates to an information processing apparatus, method, system, and recording medium wherein a controlled apparatus connected to a network transmits control screen data of the controlled apparatus to a controlling apparatus for display. Contents of an operation executed by a user referencing a display screen of the controlling apparatus notify the controlled apparatus, allowing the controlling apparatus to execute control without transmitting commands for directly controlling the controlled apparatus.

Croy et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a hand-held device and system for monitoring and controlling electronic devices. The control device includes a base unit including a microcontroller and an interface coupled to the microcontroller for receiving external information and a personal navigator coupled to the base unit via a data link.

The personal navigator further includes a display component for displaying a dual partition selection list including a portion of the external information received from the interface. The dual partition selection list further includes a first selection list and a second selection list, a portion of the first selection list and a portion of the second selection list being concurrently displayable on the display component.

The Office Action states that Croy et al. discloses an information processing apparatus including, inter alia, first and second display control means (see Office Action, p. 2, lns. 18-26). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Office Action cites element 240 and col. 7, lns. 28-35 of Croy et al. as allegedly disclosing first display control means, and col. 7, lns. 45-56 as allegedly disclosing second display control means (see id.).

As understood by Applicants, element 240 of Croy et al. corresponds to a display unit located on the handheld personal navigator (PN) (see Croy et al., col. 7, lns. 25-29; Fig. 3). The display unit displays menus or selection lists for use by the user (see id.).

Col. 7, lns. 40-57 of Croy et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to the use of selection means to choose from functions or from menus displayed on the display unit, and to menus presented in the form of selection lists or "ping pong menus" (see id., col. 7, lns. 40-57). Using this menu structure, selection of an item from a selection list causes a new menu or submenu to appear for further selection (see id.).

As understood by Applicants, the selection menus are a mechanism to display information on the display unit located on the PN, and do not disclose or suggest second display control means for controlling a display of a second control screen based upon the second control screen data received by the receiving means, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

In contrast, the information processing apparatus of the present invention includes first display control means for controlling the display of a first control screen for controlling the other information processing apparatuses connected to the network, and second display control means for controlling a display of a second control screen (see specification of the present application, p. 3, lns. 5-20).

Furthermore, in the present invention the second screen data include graphical user interface (GUI) data of the selected information processing apparatus (see id., p. 28, lns. 6-20); and the outputted signals from the output means notify the selected information processing apparatus of an operation performed by the user via the second control screen (see id., p. 27, ln. 21 to p. 30, ln. 11).

It is respectfully submitted that Croy et al. does not disclose or suggest an information processing apparatus that is connected to a network with other information processing apparatuses, and that controls itself and other information processing apparatuses via the network, comprising first display control means for controlling a display of a first control screen for controlling the other information

processing apparatuses, receiving means for receiving, from a selected information processing apparatus via the network, second control screen data for controlling at least the selected information processing apparatus when the selected information processing apparatus is selected via the first control screen, second display control means for controlling a display of a second control screen based upon the received second control screen data, and output means for outputting signals as inputs to the selected information processing apparatus when predetermined instructions are input by a user via the second control screen, wherein the second control screen data include graphical user interface data of the selected information processing apparatus, and the outputted signals notify the selected information processing apparatus of an operation performed by the user via the second control screen, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Croy et al.

Independent claims 2-7, and the claims depending therefrom, are believed to be patentable over the cited reference for at least similar reasons.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

The references cited as of interest has been reviewed, but are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.


Should the Examiner disagree, it is respectfully

requested that the Examiner specify where in the cited document there is a basis for such disagreement.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Maioli" clearly distinguishable.

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27,213

JHM/AVF